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### University of Montana staffer praises Girls State in address

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## UM STAFFER PRAISES GIRLS STATE IN ADDRESS

MISSOULA--

Thomas J. Collins, director of Public Services at the University of Montana, emphasized the overall value of Girls State at UM.

Addressing more than 300 high school coeds participating in the 22nd annual Girls State this week, Collins said, "Your program is one of the finest for enlightening young people to civic responsibilities and operations of government."

He also expressed pleasure that the girls attending Girls State have an opportunity to visit the Missoula campus. This is the first time in Girls State history the event has been held at the University.

Girls State ends Sunday morning following breakfast at the University Center.

Collins cited several UM graduates who have made significant contributions to their communities and their country. He pointed out that since the Rhodes Scholarships were instituted in 1904, the University has produced 18 Rhodes winners. UM has produced more Rhodes Scholars than any other institution of higher learning west of the Mississippi River, he emphasized.

Collins said he feels a combination of factors probably contribute to making students in the northwest outstanding. "Perhaps the students we are getting from Montana families are better raw material," said Collins. He cited the rugged environment of the area and the exceptional faculty as possible contributing factors.

Before speaking to the girls, Collins played a few selections on his accordian. He was a professional musician at one time.

Collins was accompanied by Andrew C. Cogswell, UM dean of students, who assisted him in the question-answer period that followed his talk.